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Executive Registry

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17 August 1959

MEMORANDUM TO: The Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT : National Relocation Exercise Phase of  
Operation Alert 1959

From to  
ACD-17 Aug  
JHL

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1. This memorandum is designed to inform you of the plans of this Agency for participation in the national relocation exercise phase of Operation Alert 1959, which is scheduled for the period August 24 through August 26, 1959.

2. Pursuant to our agreement with appropriate officials of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, our participation in the exercise this year is addressed to a program of our own preparation rather than to the standard program for the Government at large (which is based on an analysis of operational and resources management problems which arose during the local, state, and regional exercises held May, June, and July, from participation in which we were exempted).

3. Representatives of the Deputy Director (Intelligence) have prepared an exercise problem calling for the preparation of an independent intelligence estimate of a situation based on a hypothetical attack on West Berlin and a ground attack on several European fronts by the USSR, followed by a formal declaration of war and an initial nuclear exchange. A copy of their published instructions on this problem, designed for solution during the exercise, is attached hereto.

4. Representatives of the Deputy Director (Plans) have published instructions covering DD/P participation in [redacted] dated 1 August 1959, a copy of which is attached hereto. It provides for a program of orientation and familiarization for members of the Emergency Relocation Force at the site, a review of the adequacy and timeliness of records and documents currently on deposit in the vital materials repository, and an evaluation of the adequacy of assigned emergency work areas, equipment and facilities at the site, in the light of the present wartime mission.

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5. Participation by the offices and staffs of the Deputy Director (Support) will consist of a re-analysis of the adequacy of their own individual emergency plans in the light of the current situation, an analysis of the adequacy and timeliness of their vital materials at the site in the light of their respective

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technical fields, a program of indoctrination and familiarization of persons on the Emergency Force roster, and the rendering of support to the exercise itself and to the other major components participating.

6. Advice received from appropriate officials of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization reveals that it will not be necessary for you or General Cabell to be present personally at the site at any time during the course of the exercise. I shall be in attendance at the site throughout the exercise, and have been designated by the Deputy Director (Support) to act as the senior officer present for the purpose of the exercise.

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7. [redacted] in addition to being present at the site throughout the exercise, has been designated to represent this Agency at the seminar scheduled at [redacted] on 28 August 1959.

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[redacted]  
H. GATES LLOYD  
Assistant Deputy Director  
(Support)

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2 Enclosures

S-E-C-R-E-T

24 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Offices in DD/I Area

SUBJECT : General Concept for DD/I Problem--Operation Alert 1959

REFERENCE : 21 October 1958 Memorandum, Subject "Operation Alert 1959: Concept", to All Offices in DD/I Area from Assistant to DD/I (Planning)

1. The damage assessment problem outlined in the referenced memorandum has been revised as a result of further study. The present intent is to use, insofar as possible, damage assessment data derived from a 1958 AFCIN nuclear strike problem as a base for the total problem.

2. The following information is subject to further revision and refinement, but is presented here for planning purposes:

a) The Situation. Following a surprise military occupation of West Berlin and a conventional (non-nuclear) ground attack on several European fronts by the USSR, the U. S. declared war against the USSR. An initial nuclear exchange between the USSR and the U. S. has been effected.

b) The nuclear strike pattern against the USSR has been made available to the CIA Relocation Site by the US Air Force and initial damage assessment data are available at the CIA Relocation Site.

c) It will be assumed that the DD/I complex at the Relocation Site has been asked by the Director to prepare for the NSC an independent intelligence estimate of the current situation.

3. Details of the problem will be provided at the Relocation Site at the time of the exercise. For planning purposes, the following outline of the Director's request is provided:

a) An assessment of current Soviet capability to launch additional nuclear attacks on the Continental U. S. is required.

b) An estimate of the economic recuperability of the USSR to support a conventional defense against US-Allied invasion

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and to supply essential civilian service to the surviving Soviet population is needed.

c) The determination of an optimum location for an invasion of the USSR considering the lay-down pattern of the US nuclear strike, the logistics problem, and the reaction of the Soviet population is required.

d) An assessment of a cease-fire offer by a group of Soviet officials and an assessment of Chinese Communist intent is necessary.

4. Summaries and estimates will be prepared in message format, ready for delivery to the message center, but each report will be clearly labelled "Exercise message not to be transmitted." The message will be delivered instead to the Office of the Acting DCI at the relocation center.

5. Although the substantive part of the exercise is to be conducted as a purely CIA problem and will not involve contact with outside agencies, the offices responsible for USIB Committees will undertake an inventory of skills in their fields of responsibility as directed in the referenced memorandum.

6. A meeting of representatives from each of the Offices of the DD/I will be held shortly to discuss the alert exercise.



Assistant to the DD/I (Planning)

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